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**GANG LEADER RESPONSIBLE FOR TWO DOZEN VIOLENT
ARMED ROBBERIES AROUND THE U.S. PLEADS GUILTY**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that WANG JIA FU, a/k/a "Ga Fook," the leader of a large Chinese robbery gang, pled guilty today in Manhattan Federal Court, before United States District Judge DENNY CHIN, to two counts of carrying a firearm during robberies he committed with other members of his gang in Queens and New Jersey. These offenses call for a mandatory minimum sentence of 30 years' imprisonment.

WANG JIA FU had been previously charged in a Indictment, along with 14 other members of his gang, which alleged that the defendants conspired to rob, and robbed at gunpoint, 24 different residences and businesses in New York and at least five other states. The Indictment alleged that the defendants perpetrated a series of robberies in New York City's Chinatown in 2000 and 2001, and used and carried firearms during the robberies.

In addition, according to the Indictment, various defendants traveled outside New York to commit armed robberies around the United States, including in New Jersey, Florida, Georgia, Arizona, and California. The investigation also revealed that the defendants systematically targeted Chinese businesses and the homes of Chinese businessmen around the country.

The charges in the Indictment represented the culmination of a three-year investigation by the FBI's Asian Organized Crime Task Force, which is made up of FBI agents and NYPD detectives.

To date, 12 members of WANG JIA FU's robbery gang have been convicted - 10 have pled guilty and two were convicted after trial. On May 29, 2003, two associates of WANG JIA FU, CHEN XIANG and LIN XIAN WU, were convicted, after a two-week jury trial before United States District Judge RICHARD CONWAY CASEY, of robbing at gunpoint three businesses in New York's Chinatown and extorting a fourth business.

The evidence at trial established that the robbers' victims included young children and elderly people, who were routinely bound and often physically assaulted. In September 2003, Judge CASEY sentenced CHEN XIANG to 87 years and 10 months in prison and LIN XIAN WU to 86 years and 9 months in prison. The other defendants in the case are awaiting sentencing. Seven

defendants remain fugitives.

The evidence established, that members of WANG JIA FU's robbery crew stole hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and property during the course of their robberies.

Judge CHIN scheduled WANG JIA FU's sentencing for June 30, 2004.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the FBI, the New York City Police Department, and the many local law enforcement agencies throughout the country that assisted in the investigation.

Assistant United States Attorneys PREET BHARARA and LESLIE BROWN are in charge of the prosecution.

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